(b) and (c) Railways try to get as much Budgetary support through discussions with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance at the time of Finalising the Annual Plans.

Over Stayed Visits by Foreigners

1580. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether a large number of foreigners who came to India on valid passports or otherwise over-stayed and thereafter declared as missing

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years till date, country-wise,

(c) whether any of them have been apprehended and deported

(d) if so, the details thereof ·

(e) the action taken in the matter and

(f) the measures the Government propose to adopt to eradicate this evil of overstaying and missing of foreigners resulting in the increase of our population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) (a) and (b) Powers to detect and deport foreign Nationals overstaying their visas or otherwise staying unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the states Government/Union Territory Administrations. Data regarding detection and deportation is maintained by the State/Union Territories

(c) to (f) Detection, deportation, launching of prosecution against foreign nationals overstaying in the country is a continous process. Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations from time to time to make concerted efforts and to launche special drives to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in the country illegally

Passanger Amenities

1581 DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor passenger amenities in the New Delhi-Orissa bound trains, and

(b) if so the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Provision of passenger amenities in coaches are made as per the recommendations of passenger amenities committee. These provisions are provided on all coaches on New Delhi-Orissa bound trains.

(b) Railways have, however, been advised to ensure that all passenger amenity items are in good working order in all coaches in the New Delhi-Orissa bound trains.

Tiger Population

1582 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have identified the factors posing threat to tiger population,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the steps taken to make a realistic survey on the tiger population in the country,

(d) the number of tigers as per the latest survey State-wise and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect and preserve this species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARYAN PRASAD NISHAD) (a) and (b) The main factors threatening the tiger population in the country are-

- poaching to meet the demand of illegal international trade in tiger bones and other parts of its body and
- fragmentation and quality degradation of the habitat

(c) The tiger census is undertaken in the country once in every four years and that in the tiger reserve areas once in every two years

(d) Last state-wise census was carried out in 1993 and a statement of census figure is enclosed

(e) The steps taken by the Government are -

(i) A 'Tiger Crisis Cell' has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling

(iii) Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon

(iv) A protocol has been signed with the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to coordinate bilateral efforts to stop illegal activities of poaching of tigers and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body

(v) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'GLOBAL TIGER FORUM' for strengthening intenational cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitate throughout the range countries